(c) whether similar construction of roads has been reported on the border areas near Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of road construction activities by the Chinese side across the international boundary adjoining Uttar Kashi and Pithoragarh.

(c) Yes.

(d) Road construction activities by China have also been reported in the border areas opposite Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

(e) Government attach importance to the development of road infrastructure in India's border areas. Our infrastructure development plans in the border areas are well in place and reviewed from time to time.

Indians in Pakistani jails

395. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 182 Indians have been languishing in Pakistani jails for more than last three decades;

(b) whether this fact has been admitted by Pakistani Government several times; and

(c) whether Government have again renewed its request to the Government of Pakistan to release those persons and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Pakistan has acknowledged that there are 182 Indian civilian prisoners in its custody. Out of the 161

who have been given consular access, 60 have been released after nationality verification. Nationality of another 64 prisoners has been verified, and they are awaiting release by Pakistani authorities.

The humanitarian matter related to prisoners is high on the agenda of the Government. The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistan's custody has been taken up consistently with Pakistan at all levels. The matter was discussed during the visit of the President of Pakistan to New Delhi on 16-18 April 2005. The matter was also raised during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004 and during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan on February 15-17, 2005. Government is continuing its efforts to secure early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

Pakistani President's views towards APHC

396. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan has once again stated that the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) is the only true representative of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what is the position of democratically elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir in the eyes of Pakistan and other countries;

(d) whether Pakistan also feels that the APHC should be directly involved in the discussions between India and Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir issue; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) During the visit of the Hurriyat leaders to POK and Pakistan in June 2005, President Musharraf had stated that the Hurriyat are the true representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.